

*Dichiarazioni di utilità, defensiones e captationes benevolentiae
nella lessicografia ottocentesca*

Ilde Consales

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the prefaces of some dictionaries published in Italy in the nineteenth century, a century of extraordinary lexicographical production. The statements about the usefulness of the dictionaries and about the programmatic purposes, the *captationes benevolentiae* and *defensiones* that are expressed in these paratextes not only give information about the structure of the dictionaries and the cultural aims of compilers and editors: they also reflect specific positions in a wide-ranging national debate, that deeply intertwined the language question to the question of vocabulary and that ended the secular authority of the *Vocabolario degli Accademici della Crusca*.